

**Virginia Board of Education
Early Childhood Committee
September 26, 2006**

3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

**James Monroe Building
22nd Floor – Jefferson Conference Room
Richmond, Virginia**

Committee Members Present: Mrs. Eleanor Saslaw, Chair; Mr. Kelvin Moore, Co-Chair; Dr. Billy Cannaday; Mr. Thomas Brewster; Mrs. Isis Castro; Dr. Mark Emblidge

Purpose of Committee: To hear overviews of the Virginia Preschool Initiative Program and the Early Childhood Alignment Project

Summary of Committee Meeting:

1. Welcome from Mrs. Saslaw, Chair
2. Introduction of Attendees
3. Ms. Cheryl Strobel, Early Childhood Specialist, Virginia Department of Education, presented an overview of the Virginia Preschool Initiative program.
 - a. Its purpose, requirements, and operation
 - b. Participation and non-participation of LEA
 - c. Technical assistance
 - d. Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Learning: Standards for Literacy, Mathematics, Science, and History and Social Science
 - e. Title I preschool programs
 - f. Early Childhood Special Education and technical assistance
 - g. Board of Education's plan to strengthen Virginia Preschool Programs
4. Ms. Kathy Glazer, Executive Director, Governor's Working Group on Early Childhood Initiatives, presented an overview of the Alignment Project for Virginia
 - a. Components of the Alignment Project include
 1. Benchmarks for Smart Beginnings
 2. Early learning program standards
 3. Professional competencies for Smart Beginnings

4. Career lattice for professional development so early learning is
a seamless continuum across learning environments
 - b. Quality Rating System as a means of assessing and rating the quality of all
early childhood programs
 - c. Benefits of a Quality Rating System
 - d. Project timeline
5. Closing statements from Mrs. Saslaw, Chair